

Attorney Docket No. YOR920010243US1REMARKS

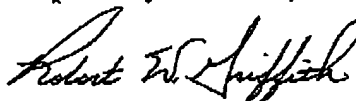
The present application was filed on July 19, 2001 with claims 1-25. Claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 14, 16, 18, 21 and 24 have been amended and claims 7, 17, 22 and 25 have been canceled. Claims 1-6, 8-16, 18-21, 23 and 24 remain pending and claims 1, 11, 21 and 24 are the pending independent claims.

In the outstanding final Office Action, the Examiner: (i) rejected claims 1-6, 10, 11-16, 20, 21, 23 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,021,408 to Ledain et al. (hereinafter "Ledain"); and (ii) rejected claims 4-6 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Ledain in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,553,369 to Guay et al.

In response to the final Office Action, independent claims 1, 11, 21 and 24 have been amended to incorporate the limitations of allowable claims 7, 17, 22 and 25, respectively, in an effort to expedite the application through to issuance. Claims 7, 17, 22 and 25 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 4, 6, 8, 14, 16 and 18 have been amended to properly correspond with amended claims 1 and 11. No new matter has been added. Applicant also acknowledges the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 8, 9, 18 and 19.

It is believed that the claims of the application as now presented, i.e., claims 1-6, 8-16, 17-21, 23 and 24, are patentably distinct over the art of record and are in condition for allowance. In view of the foregoing remarks, early and favorable reconsideration of this application is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,



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Robert W. Griffith
Attorney for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 48,956
Ryan, Mason & Lewis, LLP
90 Forest Avenue
Locust Valley, NY 11560
(516) 759-4547